GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1239
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2017
Intangible Cultural Heritage
Mahendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has formally inscribed Yoga in its representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is due to a Government initiative after the first International Yoga Day celebration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the benefits of inclusion of yoga in the list?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Yoga was inscribed in UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the 11th session of Intergovernmental Committee held from 28th November to 02nd December, 2016 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

(c) & (d) No, Madam. The dossier for nomination of Yoga for inclusion in the UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity was submitted to UNESCO Headquarters before the first International Yoga Day.

(e) The inclusion of Yoga on the UNESCO's Representative List will contribute to the visibility of intangible cultural heritage in general and raise awareness of its importance at the local, national and international levels as its practice is universal and widespread cutting across community, class, income, gender, faith and age. Additionally, Yoga's inscription on the Representative List will promote respect for cultural diversity and human creativity as it will create a commonality and a bond between and across practitioners, transmitters and the diverse communities and individuals that follow the practice.